AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 6, to page 9, line 3, as follows:

Fig. 1 is a flow diagram of a method of orientating a n-dimensional finite space curve in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention. The preferred method allows orientation of a space curve in a simple and consistent manner with limited user input. The method commences at step S102 and any necessary processes and parameters are initialized. In the next step S104, the user selects a preferred direction for orientating the n-dimensional finite curve space. Alternatively, the preferred direction may be preset. The processing continues at the next step S106, where a preferred vector is generated having the same direction as the preferred direction. Also during this step, n-1 additional preferred vectors are generated from the preferred direction supplied by the user. Each of these additional preferred vectors is non-zero and is linearly independent of the other preferred vectors, thus forming a basis. Alternatively, the user may input each desired direction of these additional preferred vectors. In this way, any ambiguous result of orientating the space curve can be resolved. In the next step S108, an n-dimensional finite space curve is provided, which may be accessed from memory or may be implicitly generated. This n-dimensional space curve may be derived from the shape of a character. The processing continues at the next step S110, where one or more vector(s) based upon a characteristic of the space curve are generated. Preferably, the method automatically

generates these vector(s) of the space curve according to a predetermined technique. Alternatively, the method can include a step (not shown) whereby a user is able to select the desired technique for generating the vector(s) of the space curve. These techniques and some typical examples of vectors of space curves are given in the examples described below. In the next step S112, a comparison is made between one or two vectors of space curves and the initial preferred vector to determine that direction of the space curve closest to the desired direction. If both vectors of the space curves are equally close then the additional preferred vectors are utilized to resolve the ambiguity. In step S114, the n-dimensional finite space curve is then orientated to that direction determined by step S112. During this step, the corresponding character can also be orientated in the same direction. In the decision box S116, a check is made whether any more space curves are to be processed. If the decision box returns true, the processing continues at step S108. Otherwise, the processing terminates at step S118. For a more detailed explanation of the preferred method reference is made to the following examples.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 8, as follows:

Given that the only restriction on end points is that all curve points must lie within the interval described by them, then any point on the closed curve may be chosen such that the start point A and end point B are coincident at this chosen point 162. Given no other criteria, it is sensible to choose this coincident start/end position as a point on the curve whose outward normal is most similar to the preferred vector vl 163. Alternatively, the point to be nominated as the coincident start/end point may be chosen randomly along

the curve interval, pseudorandomly for reproducibility, or according to some other relevant criteria. The end tangent vectors Ta ~~165~~ 164 and Tb ~~166~~ 165 are calculated, and the same process as previously described for determining orientation in the non-closed case applies. Note that in this particular example, Ta and Tb are perpendicular to the preferred vector vl, so the second preferred vector v2 will be the deciding vector here.